

SENATOR **Nell Soto** 32nd Senatorial District

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SENATOR SOTO'S FARM WORKER HOUSING BILL CLEARS SENATE FLOOR

SB 1721 Will Help Build More Farm Worker Housing

Sacramento – A shortage of farm worker housing in California prompted Senator Nell Soto (D-Pomona) to author a bill to close up a loophole in local zoning laws that would help increase housing for farm workers. SB 1721 broadens the current statute to cover farm worker housing under design review standards.

“It is sad that we do not have sufficient housing for those who do some of the hardest work in this state,” says Soto. “Some local communities will find loopholes in the law just so they won’t have to build farm worker housing in their areas. We need to accommodate this segment of our workforce.”

Current law prevents local governments from altering zoning standards after a project’s application is completed. There are reported incidents, however, where farm worker housing projects have received local land use approval but have been blocked by hostile neighborhood groups who use the design review process to stop, delay or make projects more expensive.

SB 1721 broadens current statute so those design review standards can not be used to block a proposed farmworker housing development.

The Rural Assistance Community Corporation and the California Coalition for Rural Housing support this bill.

SB 1721 will now go to the Assembly for further hearings.

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